

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Schmeltzer DATE 7/2/85
R (255)
PPS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE _____
TO AUTH _____ REASON(S) _____
E. FORGE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐ SAUDI ARABIA AND JIHAD
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASEABLE ☒
RELEASE ☒ Crown Prince Fahd referred to Jihad in August 1980
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

in the form of a rhetorical question. This reference to Jihad coincided with the Knesset's passage of a bill declaring all Jerusalem the capital of Israel and one of the holiest of Muslim hold days, Id Al-Fitr.

-- Although Jihad properly translated means "holy war", the term took on a more general meaning in the 19th and 20th centuries to rally support for nationalist struggles. In the Saudi context, Jihad is a way to dramatize the continuing view of the Arab world that Israel should withdraw from the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem.

-- A major element of the Royal Family's legitimacy both at home and in the Muslim world is its role as protector of the holy places and defender of the faith. Therefore, it is not surprising that on the Muslim holy day, Fahd reacted so vigorously in response to the Knesset vote.

-- More recently, the final communique of the Islamic Summit concluded in Taif expressed the Jihad call as follows:

"The Kings, Amirs, and Presidents of Islamic countries have agreed to declare holy Jihad for salvaging Al-Quds Al-Sharif (blessed Jerusalem), supporting the Palestinian people, and bringing about Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories. In their resolve to launch Jihad, the Islamic states have made it clear that Jihad has its Islamic concept that permits no misinterpretations or misunderstandings. They have also

agreed that the practical measures to put Jihad into effect would be taken in accordance with the Islamic concept of Jihad and in continuous consultation among themselves."

-- The statement leaves the means of Jihad itself purposely vague by declaring that it needs no interpretation.

-- Saudi statements on Jihad reflect Saudi frustration with the lack of progress on the autonomy talks and Saudi belief that Israeli settlements and the Jerusalem vote are a barrier to a lasting and comprehensive peace.